



March 2005

Dear Producer:

The Upper Wolf Watershed in the northeastern panhandle of Texas is one of 202 watersheds in the nation selected for the second year of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2005. This watershed includes portions Hutchinson, Hansford, Ochiltree and Lipscomb counties. We are contacting landowners and operators in the Upper Wolf Watershed to let them know about this program.

As a landowner or operator in the Upper Wolf Watershed, you may be eligible for the CSP during a signup period scheduled for the spring of 2005 **if** your land is located in the Upper Wolf Watershed.

CSP identifies and rewards farmers who currently maintain high standards of soil and water conservation on their lands. Participating farms are expected to be using good soil quality practices (crop rotations, cover crops, reduced tillage, prescribed grazing) and good water quality practices (conservation tillage, terraces, grassed waterways, managed livestock access to streams, nutrient and pest management, and irrigation water management) on cropland and pastureland. Qualifying farms may be eligible for financial and technical assistance to maintain and enhance their conservation efforts. The participant will be required to provide documentation that demonstrates accomplishment of these practice(s).

To be eligible to participate in CSP, an applicant must:

- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions
- Have control of the land for the life of the proposed contract period;
- Share in the risk of producing any crop or livestock and be entitled to share in the crop or livestock available for marketing from the agricultural operation (although landlords and owners for exclusively cash rented agricultural operations are ineligible to submit an application, they can be a conservation stewardship contract participant);
- Supply information, as required by NRCS, to determine eligibility for the program, including but not limited to information related to eligibility criteria in the sign-up notice, and information to verify the applicant's status as a beginning farmer or rancher;
- Complete a benchmark condition inventory for the entire agricultural operation, or the portion being enrolled;
- Be in compliance with adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements.

CSP is a nationally competitive program. All eligible applicants enter into an enrollment category. The Secretary of Agriculture selects the highest ranking categories to be funded.

To help assess your opportunities in CSP, information meetings will be held as follows:

Date	Town/City	Location	Time
March 16	Perryton	Ochiltree County Expo Center, 402 Expo Drive	9:30 a.m.
March 17	Spearman	O'Loughlin Center, 502 Brandt	1:00 p.m.

For more information visit the NRCS Texas website at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/csp or contact your local NRCS Office in Stinnett at (806) 878-2611, Spearman at (806) 659-2330, Perryton at (806) 435-6597 or Follett at (806) 653-2561.

Sincerely,

Stan Bradbury, District Conservationist
Perryton/Follett Resource Team
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service